

Friday  
March 30, 1990



**Favorite  
teachers - part II**  
.....page 4

**Fair Park High  
students invade  
campus ....page 9**

**LSUS basketball  
team wins tour-  
nament ....page 11**

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# ALMAGEST

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 21

**Pulitzer winner Paul Greenberg says:**

## Less news is bad news

The second annual Ark-La-Tex Journalism Institute focussed on the nature of news and its future, Tuesday in the LSUS UC Ballroom.

Surrounded by some of Shreveport's most prominent journalists, keynote speaker Paul Greenberg, Pulitzer Prize-winning commentator, said journalism's direction should be into the past, and away from the high-color, low-content, USA Today-type newspapers.

But USA Today does enjoy a very large circulation while most newspapers' popularity seems to be declining.

"The demand for news is still strong," Greenberg said. The newspaper circulation increase is not keeping up with the population increase — so they say the newspaper is declining. This decline of the newspaper is due to deliberate decisions of business to combine morning and evening editions or to go out of business. The newspapers don't lack readers — just advertisers, he said.

Some newspapers are looking for new directions in journalism to increase circulation. Greenberg believes no new direction is needed.

The Chicago Daily News was getting fewer papers into fewer households, Greenberg said. "They leapt to the conclusion it was our content. They said readers prefer games and how-to features. The old quality was sacrificed. Still the subscriptions went down. So we further diluted our quality. Subscriptions sank. Some said the paper could still be saved if only the paper weren't so good.

"I think people still want news, advertising and commentary," Greenberg finished. "Some say USA Today is the way of the future. This is insufficiently hopeful for the future."

Shreveport Times Editor Terry Eberle disagreed. "USA Today's high circulation has shown it has reached its market. I think editors edit for other editors and ignore readers. We as editors have to start listening." Both the Shreveport Times and USA Today are owned by Gannett.

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the Dallas Morning News David Hanners said, "I don't think there is anything wrong with USA Today. People read it because they know when they dive in, it won't take long to finish a story. People read lively writing and we've made writing bland."

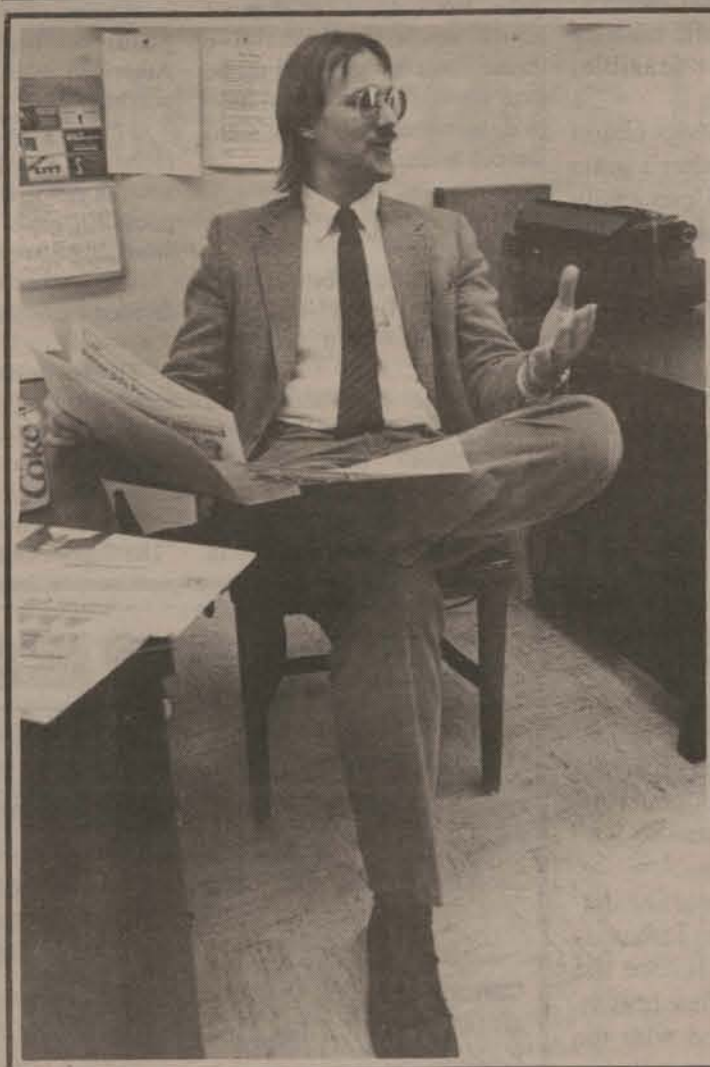
Shreveport Journal Editor Carl

Liberto disliked the USA Today style of newspaper. "If I were in an airport somewhere I'd rather pick up the local newspaper than USA Today. I agree the decline of the newspaper is not as great as people believe. I don't think we can do any better than to go out and do the best we can."

KWKH Assistant News Director Bess Maxwell said, "Part of the problem is that this is a fast-food generation. People don't seem to have time to read."

KSLA Assistant News Director Yvonne Pittenger said, "The attitude of the public is the problem — they expect immediacy."

*Some said the paper could still be saved if only the paper weren't so good.*



David Hanners

photo by Larry Merrell

## Can you write?

By MATT FRAZIER  
Editor-in-Chief

Deer sur,

Mi naim iz Moly Vote. I kneed an jot; and wood lick two worc four you're kompanee and wood bee an honiste, loyall imploi..., empoi..., imploy... er... worker. I graduated form LSUS.

Tanx four tha opurtoonidy.

Molleye Voght

There are too many variables for writing to be easy. To avoid sentence fragments and run-ons, it is necessary to keep track of verbs, subjects and other pesky parts of speech. English spelling is so warped only a madman or an English teacher can understand it. Hampered by all these rules and regulations, one must be a genius to write an intelligible sentence.

Modern times demand that we all be geniuses.

Writing is now an essential survival skill. We must write to endorse pay-checks and get through school. Most importantly, we must write to get a good job.

Businessmen must write reports that impress their superiors. Professors must "publish or perish." Scientists must be able to write up their discoveries to win Nobel prize money. No matter what field you go into, good writing will be a valuable asset.

LSUS students are spending a tremendous amount of money learning survive in the real world. Are they learning enough? Can LSUS graduates write well enough to win and keep a good job?

This week the Almagest tries to answer that question.

We take a look at the writing abilities of incoming students. We find out how LSUS helps those students meet college writing demands.

We also see how well students are taught to write. Are our instructors doing their job? How much emphasis do LSUS instructors put on writing skills? What can be done to improve student's writing ability. What can we do to improve instructors' ability to teach writing skills?

Finally, the Almagest finds out how much juniors and seniors have learned at LSUS about writing. Can they write at an acceptable level? Did LSUS do its job?

Turn to page six and seven to find out.



## editorial

# U.S. can't help free Lithuania

Hoping to ride on the wave of glasnost and perestroika the tiny Baltic state of Lithuania defiantly demanded its freedom from the dominating Soviet Union.

"With the help of the United States, we can do it," said Lithuania's president. Thirteen days later, just before dawn, Soviet tanks, armored personnel carriers and military trucks roared through the downtown Lithuanian capital, Vilnius.

Soviet troops took over five buildings, including the republic's showcase Communist Party headquarters. Twenty-three Lithuanian Red Army deserters were recaptured from a psychiatric hospital. A trail of blood led down the hospital steps and out the front door.

The United Nations chooses to ignore Lithuania's plea for help. The United States has the courage to say strong words in favor of a free Lithuania. Lithuania's burning desire for freedom is not satisfied with mere words.

Will the United States, the world's democratic beacon, do anything to help Lithuania's quest for peace? Of course not. Should the United States do anything to help Lithuania's quest for peace? Of course not.

There are two ways America could intervene to help Lithuania. We could use either military or economic pressure.

Military pressure would be stupid. America is good at invading small, back-water countries. But the United States can not play the same game with the Soviet Union. The stakes are far too high. We may free Lithuania, but that freedom would be enjoyed only by the indestructible cockroach. Between powerful countries, the use of the military as a form of political pressure is no longer feasible. Economic pressure is the new weapon.

A lone American economic boycott of the Soviet Union would only be a loss for America. As Jimmy Carter's grain embargo so plainly showed, the Soviet Union can easily buy from someone else's store. The only way an economic boycott would work is if the United Nations were involved. The United Nations shows no signs of getting involved.

So, other than some blandishment to placate the public, the United States will continue its current relations with the Soviet Union. This may be for the best.

Trying to force any country to do anything only makes that country more stubborn. The Soviet Union would destroy ties with the entire western world rather than suffer the shame of being controlled. Perhaps that is the key to Lithuania's problem...and the key to the Lithuania's solution.

Gorbachev is trying to paint the Soviet Union as a new, open and friendly nation. If the Soviets could allow the captured Baltic nations to go free, but retain or increase economic trade with those nations, wouldn't that be a double feather in Gorbachev's cap? It would be good for public relations. It would be good for economic production — as the Soviet Union's trade with Finland attests. So why not let Lithuania go?

Because instead of following a diplomatic route (i.e. letting the world think it was all the Soviets' idea) Lithuania tried to force the Soviets' hand. This only forced the Soviets into showing just how strong the Russian bear is. Once the world has been sufficiently impressed with the bear's power, a Lithuanian diplomatic break may still be possible. Improbable. But possible. Chances are — it's already too late.



**This column was written  
at the very last minute**

**By ROBERT HORNAK**  
*Staff Cartoonist/Columnist*

Assignment: Write a theme on the symbolism of the characters in "The Scarlet Letter." (And it better be good!)

OK. Symbolism. Characters. "Scarlet Letter." Due tomorrow. What time is it? 10:19?!! I'm calm. I'm calm. Less than 12 hours to write a massive theme...Not so bad. It'll all be over soon. I'm just gonna have to dive in head first, that's all. Deeeep breath. Let's do it.

10:22 p.m.: I attempt an introduction.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" is a truly great book.— No, no, no. Stupid.

Nathaniel Hawthorne uses much symbolism in his truly great novel "The Scarlet Letter."—Wrong.

"The Scarlet Letter," a novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne, is

choked-full of great symbolism. — Yikes.

When they passed out symbolism to books, "The Scarlet Letter" got a load of it. — Break time.

10:31 p.m.: Catch Johnny's monologue on TV.

10:39 p.m.: It was unfunny as usual. But, hmmm, let's see, because he's an American institution (yeah, that sounds good) — because he's an American institution I'll keep watching.

11:16 p.m.: Bob Hope (Johnny's guest for the 368th time) is just not funny tonight. I guess my paper deserves some more attention anyway.

11:17 p.m.: I'll skip to the dreaded thesis statement.

Thesis: Hester, Dimmesdale and Pearl are all cast as hopeless sinners whose ignominious activities make them feel real bad. — Some kind of sorry.

Thesis: The characters in "The Scarlet Letter" are victims

of their own vile natures, corrupted souls, and sour dispositions. — Lacking.

**Thesis:** The symbolism in Hester Prynne's character is revealed progressively through the functional life she leads, through the clothes she wears and through the daughter she has. — Eye rest.

As my head rests atop my desk, I marvel at the persistence of my procrastination. To think that I, a grown teen-ager, still wait until the last possible minute to get an unwanted task over with. Have I not learned that putting things off only prolongs my agony, only lengthens my pain, only extends my suffering? Oh, the rut that is home to me! Can escape be achieved; can time be altered; can a saxophone klxztg b pqlrzt-mzzzzzzzzz.....

2:08 a.m.: Holy cow!  
Mmmph. Oh, this can wait til 7.  
Where's that pillow?

# ALMAGEST

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## LETTERS POLICY

The **Almagest** requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor.

Letters should be typed and double-spaced. They should be turned in to the Almagest office, BH 344, by noon on the Tuesday preceding the Friday publication date.

Obscene, libelous, and anonymous letters will not be published.

We reserve the right to edit all letters.



op/ed

Letter to the Editor:

# "Scared little boy" returns fire

I find it interesting to note that upon receiving the first trace of criticism for a job poorly done, the opinion surfer that presently occupies the SGA president's office has finally seen fit to insult me personally. Or, more accurately, Royal Alexander's lackeys have pressured him to try to stand up to the first person that has made an effort to show him up for what he really is.

Mr. Alexander, just because I don't run with the small, self-deluding clique that worships you, does not mean that I have no right to speak up and criticize you for your shortcomings. You see, I speak for many well-intentioned people on this campus. The students have been ill-served this year, and large numbers of them know it - while the rest are not even aware of your existence.

Ask yourself this, Royal: after a year of listlessness, why do you come out swinging like a Libyan strongman at the first sign of disagreement with your non-program? Are you really that proud of yourself?

Mr. President, when you live in a glass house you are not

supposed to throw rocks. Didn't anybody ever teach you that?

Royal, let me assure you and the rest of the students that I am very positive about the "potential and direction of this school," and that my legitimate concerns about you and your efforts this year do not translate into a blanket condemnation of the SGA. To be sure, if the institution has rotted at the top, one has to worry about the rest of it, but hopefully you will not leave permanent scars.

Go ahead and pat yourself on the back about the implementation of the NCAA Division III Athletic Program. You did not have anything to do with it, buddy. I remember very well how flaccid you were on the issue last fall. When asked about your opinion on it, you responded that you would "have to see how the Senate felt about it," or something along those lines. That is the tail wagging the dog. It is not leadership. It is due to the efforts of Chancellor Bogue that we have an athletics program.

The "temporary" discontinuation of the book exchange was indeed one of your low points.

It had better be temporary. The fact is, it should never have been discontinued. If you are having problems with the staffing system, then change the staffing system. If you do not have a manager, then it is time for the SGA president and vice president to roll up their shirt-sleeves and run it themselves. That has been done before. That is why the president and vice president actually get a state paycheck, an office, and a secretary - so they can work for the students. It does not really matter what the problem is - you are supposed to get done what needs doing. If heads need to roll, if rules need to be changed, then do it and stop making excuses.

The fact is, gutting out the book exchange is costing the students money. It is costing the students many thousands of dollars in book money, and you have dried up an important source of revenue for the Student Loan Fund. A couple of years ago, I set up a program whereby a percentage of the revenues from the book exchange were placed in the fund's account. The first

semester we did this, almost a thousand dollars went into the fund. Those days are gone, and it is high time that someone gets this going once again.

Royal, you gave the students the shaft when you took away their book exchange, and reduced the chances for those who are pressed against the wall to get a desperately needed student loan. How can you be so self-righteous in the face of this?

These are real people Royal, with real needs that should be met. These are not the frivolous, privileged few that can afford to go to Florida over spring break every year for fun in the sun and tawdry one-night stands, and they do not spend their time back home keeping up with where the hottest party is going to be. These are the people that work hard, constantly keeping their noses to the grindstone, and they do not appreciate your indifference to them. Had you geared your administration toward helping out the humble majority, and produced some concrete results, rather than catering to this powder-puff crowd that I just mentioned, then I do not believe anyone

could have found fault with you. I do not even know you well enough to tell which group you belong to - but I do have a good fix on the direction that your administration took, and I am judging it accordingly.

All I know is this, pal: You are lucky that you did not have to stand for re-election. You are fortunate that you were not running a corporation, because you would have been fired. And if you had even been digging a ditch with the same amount of heart that you put into your presidency, then some burly foreman would have come and kicked you square in the butt. That is the way life is. It can get real tough for those who are unprepared.

I will tell you what, Royal: If this bothers you to the extent that you want to hurl some more insults my way, or sue me, or dump garbage in my front yard, or whatever, then why don't you compare my record to yours? I may not have been perfect, but at least I have a record.

**Clayton Rowe**  
SGA President 1987-88  
Liberal Arts Graduate Student

## Career Center offers lots of help

As reflected in your coverage of the question-and-answer session with Dean Cook and College of Business students, too many LSUS students are under the mistaken impression that on-campus interviewing is the only program offered by the Career Center to help seniors find employment. We have numerous ways other than interviews to help seniors.

Nationally, only about 12 percent of college graduates get their first job through on-campus interviews. Other resources including national job listings, local job listings and corporate directories are often effective. The fact is, however, that most of the complaints about the on-campus interview schedule come from students who have not used the Career Center. They see a listing of the companies somewhere around campus and when the list is small or does not include their particular major, they dismiss the Career Center without ever finding out about its other services.

I would love to be able to double or triple the 70 or so

interviews that are scheduled every year. Unfortunately, we are caught in a numbers game. Companies decide to spend the money to recruit based on their anticipated personnel needs and the supply of applicants necessary to fill the positions. Interviewing and the academic majors recruited therefore depend on supply and demand and the employers alone decide strictly on the basis of need.

Where LSUS has a disadvantage in attracting more national companies is not in the quality of our graduates, but in the quantity. Although I actively recruit employers and maintain regular contact with over 100 of them, most large companies concentrate on recruiting at campuses where they can be assured of interviewing large numbers of qualified seniors. Our problem is that we only graduate 30 or 40 people each year in most majors. Perhaps only half of those graduates use the Career Center and of those perhaps half cannot relocate for one reason or another. That leaves us with only eight to ten

graduates per year in any one major that are possible candidates for a national company. Few companies can afford to pay the travel and other expenses to interview fewer than one full day's interview schedule, no matter how outstanding those few graduates might be.

One way to overcome this problem is for every graduation candidate seeking employment to register with the Career Center and to interview with all of those organizations which do come to campus. The more qualified candidates that I can show to an employer, the better the chances that I can convince them to try LSUS. Once organizations schedule interviews, however, we must have qualified seniors sign up and interview or they will not come back.

Besides on-campus interviews, the Career Center has several other ways to help seniors. A new service will be added next Sept. 18 when SEED begins. SEED (Student/Employer Exchange Day) will be a combination job fair

for seniors and alumni and a career day for all other students. Over 100 employers, both local and national, have been invited to participate. SEED will provide seniors with an opportunity to distribute resumes to and talk with employers about career possibilities. Other students will be able to explore occupations with various employers and ask questions about the organizations.

The bottom line is that the

Career Center offers much more help than just on-campus interviews. While I am always working to increase the number of employers visiting LSUS, seniors can profit by utilizing all of the services available to them. Also, it is best if they do not wait until their last semester before visiting the Career Center.

**Bill Stowe, Director**  
Career Planning & Placement

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## question of the week

# Favorite teachers, part II

For last week's issue of the ALMAGEST, several students were asked what courses and which instructors they would recommend to those who may be unfamiliar with the LSUS faculty. Your response was overwhelming. We can see why.

Though all LSUS instructors are great — it seems some instructors are greater than others. Since finding the right instructor is so important to a successful academic career, the ALMAGEST felt it was our duty to give students a little help.

Susan Wisterman, junior computer science major, recommended taking Dr. Don Smith, mathematics professor, for any of the math classes because "he's interested in students as individuals." For those interested in history, Wisterman said Dr. Ann McLaurin, professor and chairman of the history and political science department, is the best to take. "Her classes are interesting."

Mike Jones, junior physical therapy major, said for chemistry classes, Dr. Wayne Gustavson, associate professor of chemistry, can't be beat. "He's very fair."

For anyone taking math, Jones recommended Dr. Charles Johnson, associate professor of mathematics, because "He spends quality time with each student."

Lisa Loftin, senior public relations major, said Dorie Larue, assistant professor of English, is a good choice for those who must take English 216. "She seems to be knowledgeable and enlightening about the subject."

Chris Stokes, junior history major, recommended taking Dr. Milton Finley, history professor, for any of the history classes. "He's friendly and likes to get to know his students," Stokes said, adding, "I respect him."

Perry Franklin, freshman art major, also said Finley is a good teacher to take because "he tells interesting stories and makes the class fun."

Lee Terry, senior without a major, put in another

vote for Finley. "He's fair in his grading. If you do the work, you shouldn't have any trouble passing his courses," Terry said.

Mary Carriere, sophomore marketing major, recommended taking Robert Aalberts, associate professor of management and marketing because "He's a great teacher. He jokes around with the students and makes his classes interesting," she said, adding, "I love his classes."

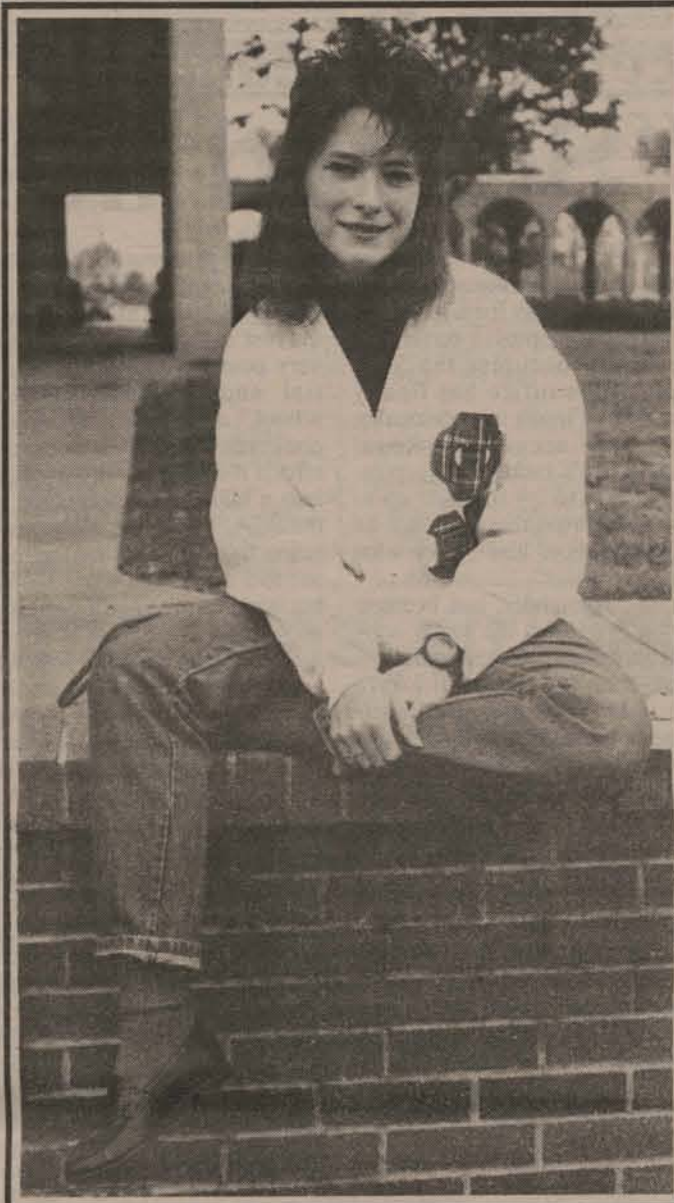
Jacqueline Caldwell, freshman business major, said for those taking English, Dr. Patricia Bates, associate professor and chairman of the English department, is a good choice because "She goes out of her way to help students."

Jim Rolfs, senior accounting major, listed among his favorite teachers such names as Don Bennett, assistant professor and chairman of accounting; Larry Clark, dean and associate professor of business; Dr. Carlos Spaht, mathematics professor; Steve White, accounting instructor; Gary Boucher, physics instructor, and Robert Aalberts in marketing. Rolfs said the thing that makes these teachers special is that they are "good communicators" and are able to "generate enthusiasm in getting the material across to students."

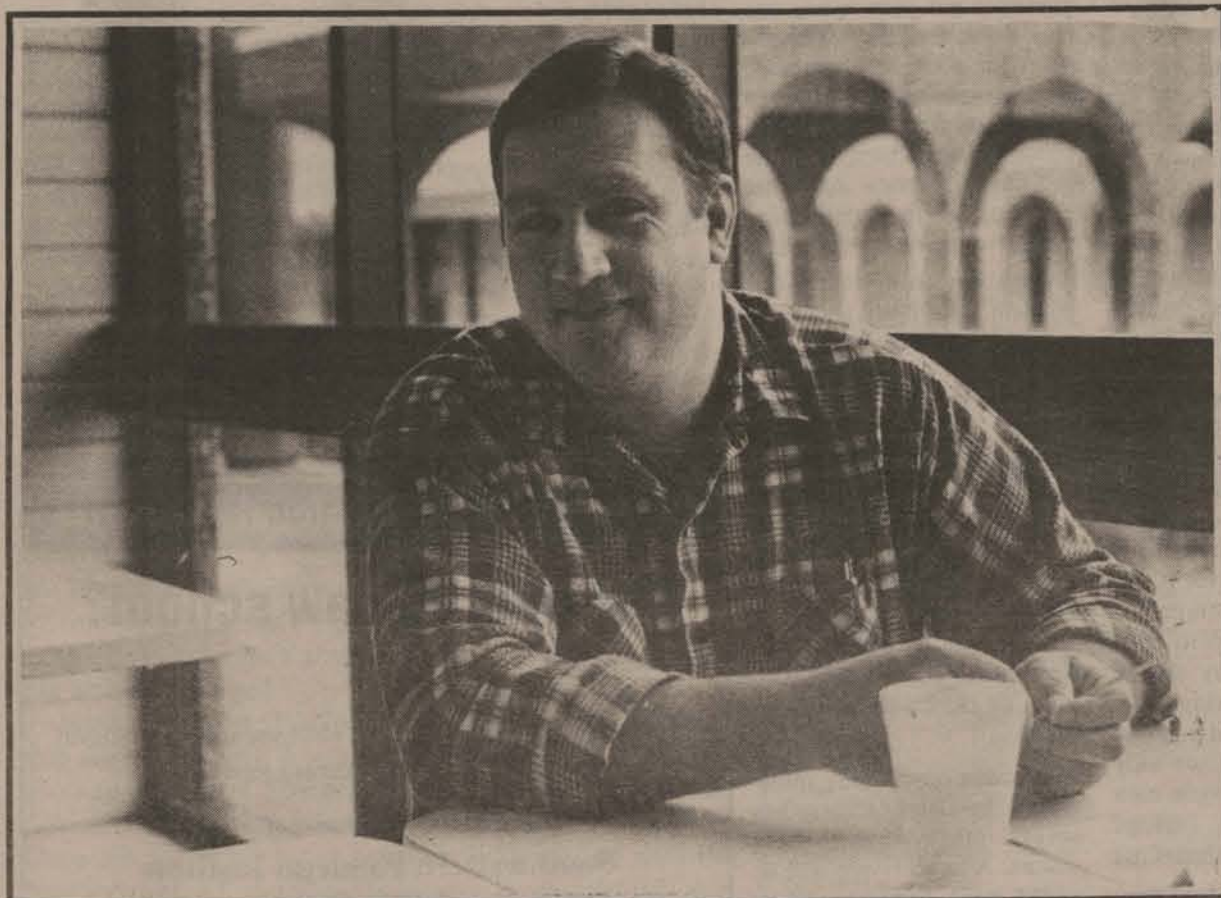
Lance Rolland, junior psychology major, said for Math 121, the best teacher to take is Dr. Don Smith, mathematics professor, because "He explains things well and he's fair to the students."

And the final student to answer the question, Clint Fuller, senior education major, said the teachers he would recommend would be Finley because "He's fair and very interesting;" Dr. Iris Johnson, assistant professor of mathematics, because "She doesn't mind helping when you're having a problem;" and Dr. Ron Byrd, dean and professor of the College of Education, because he "takes the time to explain things to you."

We hope this random survey has been helpful.

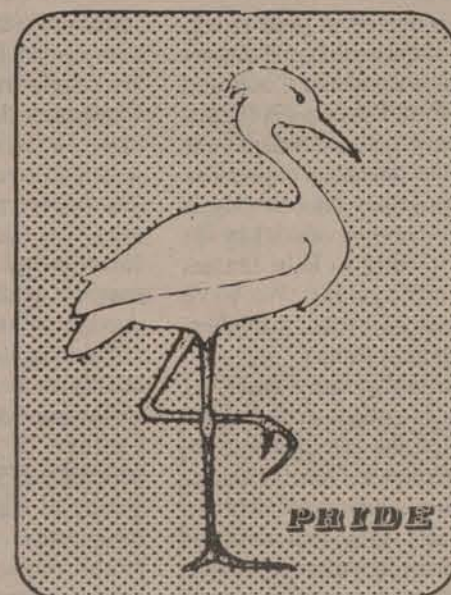


Susan Wisterman photo by Larry Merrell



John Rolfs

photo by Larry Merrell



The 4th  
Great Louisiana  
Trash Bash  
March 31, 1990

A reminder from the Office of Litter Control & Recycling



## student opinion

# Louisiana needs gun control

By ELLEN JARRATT  
Contributing Writer

In May 1989, California became the first state to ban the sale of semi-automatic weapons. At the same time Louisiana killed a similar bill. The "Sportsman's Paradise" probably will be the last state to implement any kind of gun control. It seems that legislators from our rural areas cannot understand the problems of violent crimes in Louisiana's metropolitan areas.

And although an earlier poll showed 68 percent of Shreveport and Bossier residents believed there should be a ban on the sale of semi-automatic weapons while only 18 percent were in opposition, the supposed "representatives" of the people vote in a way only helpful to themselves.

Last year, one out of eight Louisiana representatives voted in favor of including a provision for a seven-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns. The game of politics seems to control our politicians and force their votes on some, if not all, issues. With such a powerful lobbyist as the NRA, many politicians cannot help but feel threatened when it comes time to vote for or against gun control.

No one wants to lose his or

her job.

But in Shreveport, where jobs also are a problem, there's a bigger problem. Shreveport is home to at least 500 gang members.

Isn't that comforting?

As we lie awake in bed listening to the sounds of the night, we wonder, "Is that just this old house creaking, or is someone trying to break in?"

We lie there ever so quietly, trying not to

make a sound... because if it is a burglar or rapist, either they'll think we're asleep or no one is home. This is what the residents of Shreveport have to worry about these days.

Gangs with their ever-so-popular drive-by shootings have become the norm. Not only are people moving out of Shreveport because of the dying economy, they're leaving because of the violence. But Shreveport's economical depression and violence go hand-in-hand like James Dean and leather jackets. Because of unemployment, gangs and drug usage have grown.

Is there anything we can do about it? Or is it already out of our hands, growing as fast as a

rapidly spreading disease?

The Martin Luther King area in Shreveport has become synonymous with drive-by shootings and crack houses. The people of this area say crime chokes the area. Recently, only one business in that area has fared well - a welding shop which makes



burglar-proof bars for windows. Other businesses are now closing before dark because it's not

feasible for them to stay open - customers are too scared to go anywhere at night.

It's unbelievable it took until August 1988 for police to acknowledge the existence of street gangs here. Since that time, the rate of homicides has increased by 59 percent. In 62 percent of those homicides, a handgun was used. This should tell us something.

Why not have some sort of gun control? That doesn't mean

making the purchase of weapons illegal, but it should mean having some sort of restrictions and enforcing them.

The National Rifle Association says the Second Amendment calls for everyone to have the right to keep and bear arms.

But anyone with any kind of education realizes

this referred to citizens of the fledgling United States who con-

stantly had to protect their property from the British. Everyone at that time had to be in the militia to protect us because there weren't many people in the colonies at that time.

stantly had to protect their property from the British. Everyone at that time had to be in the militia to protect us because there weren't many people in the colonies at that time.

Finally, in 1939, the Supreme Court ruled that sawed-off shotguns weren't protected by the Constitution. We should think so. Sawed-off shotguns aren't the type of weapons used in the military. They're used for

one reason and one reason only - mutilation. Any kind of gun needs to be controlled. It doesn't matter if it's a B.B. gun or a semi-automatic weapon. If it can be used to harm, then it needs to be controlled.

The simplest, most effective way for controlling guns is implementing a seven-day waiting period as proposed by the Brady Bill. Named after Sarah Brady, the wife of disabled White House press secretary Jim Brady, this bill would require handgun purchasers to provide the gun dealer with their name and address. This information then would be sent to the local police. Within seven days the police would check if the purchaser was a convicted felon or was otherwise barred by law from owning a gun.

This "cooling off" period certainly would cut down on the frequent spontaneous murder we have in this area. And although someone would scream that their rights were being violated, what about having everyone undergo some sort of proficiency exam in order to buy a gun? Look at the deranged man who slaughtered five school children and wounded 30 others in Stockton, Calif. He was carrying an AK-47 assault rifle.

He never should have had a gun.

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## writing

# Writing papers is painful work

By KEVIN FLOWERS  
Managing Editor

There are many phrases, such as pop-quiz, comprehensive exam, and "I don't grade on the curve," which strike terror in the hearts of every student.

But perhaps the term students hate the most, the one which makes them wish spring break could last forever, is the phrase — "research paper."

No task is so loathed as the job of finding source material and trying to work it into a coherent paper.

Yet, while many complain of such a chore, most students feel they are receiving a better education because of such assignments.

Tony Sabin, marketing senior, feels that although many writing requirements "take a lot of time," they are worth the effort. "You learn a lot when you have to write things down," he said, adding, "But the instructors definitely make you work. I've already had to do 15 papers this semester."

Larry Clark, dean of the College of Business, said he knows how much time and effort go into completing a writing assignment, but added "We would rather have students busy, than feeling like they're not getting a good education."

He said those faculty in the College of Business continually emphasize the importance of writing. "There is some type of required writing in most every course."

While business students must take English 105 and 115, like all other students, Clark said some want to put-off the classes. "We intentionally hassle students to go ahead and get these classes out of the way so they can advance to the higher level courses."

Lyle Cook, dean of the College of Sciences, said that although there are many writing requirements in science, they differ according to the student's major. "Writing a computer program may be somewhat different than writing out a mathematics equation, but both are

important."

Though Cook said there are no set rules regarding the amount of writing teachers may assign, he added, "We believe in building-up students' writing skills. We have a commitment to helping them with their written work."

Dr. Ron Byrd, dean of the College of Education, also said that although his department has no formal policy dealing with writing requirements, "The faculty has a good grasp of how they should be helping students with writing."

Cindy Cloud, senior public

relations major, agreed that improving writing skills is important. "I'm glad they make you write a lot. It can only help you once you graduate."

While she feels the amount of required writing should be increased in some curricula, Cloud said she had difficulty in making the transition between journalistic and English style writing. "Some of the English teachers don't like journalism's writing style and they'll give you a bad grade if you use it on papers you write for them."

Chairman of the Communications Department, Dr. Dalton

Cloud, said that having good writing skills is important regardless of the field of study. "When a student approaches his senior year and can't write coherently, he demonstrates that he has failed."

He said the communications department reached a consensus that having items such as essay questions on tests was vital in helping enhance students' writing ability. "We do require extensive writing in communications, and I don't feel our expectations are unreasonable."

Dr. Wilfred Guerin, vice-chancellor of academic affairs, and Dr. Gale Bridger, associate vice-chancellor of academic affairs, agreed with Cloud.

"I'm in favor of having as much writing as teachers can grade. We become like monkeys if we can't use words correctly," Guerin said, adding, "What bothers me is seniors saying they've gone through college without having to do much writing."

Bridger said the importance of good writing skills should "never be underestimated." For this reason, she feels the writing requirements placed upon students is not unreasonable.

But Guerin stressed that students' writing skills is not only a concern at LSUS, but has spread nationwide. "Schools around the country have been pushing the idea of enhancing and refining writing techniques," he said, adding, "The entire society needs to realize just how important this is."



Dr. Gale Bridger

## Remedial course work a must

By BELINDA ROBINSON  
Contributing Writer

Each semester many students are placed in a remedial writing class — whether they like it or not. Those students must pass the class if they intend progress to upper level class work.

Dr. Nancy Wilhelmi, acting English chairwoman, said students are placed in remedial classes to build skills needed for upper level writing work. Most students become angry when they find out they must take the class because they don't get

credit for it, she said. However, students don't realize that the upper level courses are much more difficult without the skills obtained in the remedial class, she added.

"We are actually trying to protect them (students) from failing," Wilhelmi said.

According to the 1989 LSUS catalog, the English 005 writing course stresses proficiency in composition, includes a review of grammar and spelling, and introduces students to reading. This semester, 143 students are taking at least one remedial class.

Dr. Patricia Bates, English chairwoman on leave, said any

professor "especially interested in working with developmental students" can teach the remedial courses.

If students do poorly on the writing section of the proficiency exam taken at the sophomore level, they are encouraged to take writing courses to strengthen their writing, Bates said.

Some students believe all college students should take writing courses in order to learn how to write.

Rebecca Barrington, criminal justice junior, said, "I think they (remedial writing courses) are quite necessary because there is so much writing

required in college. However, I think it should depend on your major (when it comes to) how many writing courses you have to take."

Brenda Price, computer science senior said, "I think everyone should know how to write before getting out in the business world. There are executives out there who can't put together a complete sentence. That is pathetic."

Two other remedial writing classes have been dropped because they are never offered: English 005E and Communications 009. English 005E has the same purpose as 005 but is

offered to foreign students. No one has ever taken this course.

Communications 009 allows students to earn credit in particular areas desired in of the following modules: listening, non-verbal communication, and communication apprehension. Each module takes about five weeks to complete.

Dr. Dalton Cloud, communications chairman, said this course has been dropped because he felt it wasn't needed and it is never offered anymore. Also, the requirements for remedial work have changed since the course was developed, he said.



## writing

# Teachers' opinion of writing varies

By **RANDY JAMES**  
Staff Reporter

LSUS students write well, say some students and professors.

Dr. Merrell Knighten, English professor, said LSUS students are good writers, but that their writing skills don't improve much after their freshman year.

"Most of our students will have had experience in research techniques," Knighten said, "but they can use a little more by the junior and senior level. Their organization and use of evidence is workable; however, most of them are in need of a writing style."

Knighten said many upper-classmen don't have smooth, graceful styles. He also said some still have to learn to write coherently.

But Dr. Donald Sanderson, philosophy professor, said students' writing skills have declined for the past five years.

"In their sentence structure, paragraph structure, the sophistication of words used and in the overall organization of papers assigned, there has been a decline," Sanderson said.

Sanderson hopes the trend will stop, but said so far it hasn't.

"I've had two or three students win awards for some of their papers," he said, "but I haven't had papers worth submitting for the past few years."

Sanderson also said that the quality of higher education has declined. Louisiana over the past decade let its educational system decay, and students suffer because of it, he said.

"The University system in this state, salary-wise," said Sanderson, "is 31 percent below the regional average, and it is taking its toll because we do not attract the high quality of teachers we've had."

Sanderson said many Louisiana teachers, both college and elementary and secondary, leave the state or retire because of our education woes. Louisiana, said Sanderson, isn't attracting the most capable students.

"We have no funds for books

in the library, travel to conventions, nor for the institution, itself," Sanderson said. "Look at the political history of the state — people of the state have promised time and time again for certain things, and they don't deliver."

Sanderson said since LSUS doesn't have money for basic supplies, we don't have even the minimum to do anything to enhance students' skills.

"When we began," he said, "we at least had the basic necessities, but now we don't have that."

Dr. James Sabin, education professor, said LSUS students' writing skills are average to above-average.

"I think that when we find the good students they are outstanding writers," Sabin said.

Sabin said students need to improve their elaborative and descriptive writing skills. He said relatively little is done at the undergraduate level to teach writing, yet LSUS students compare well to other university students.

Sabin said some students write well and others don't.

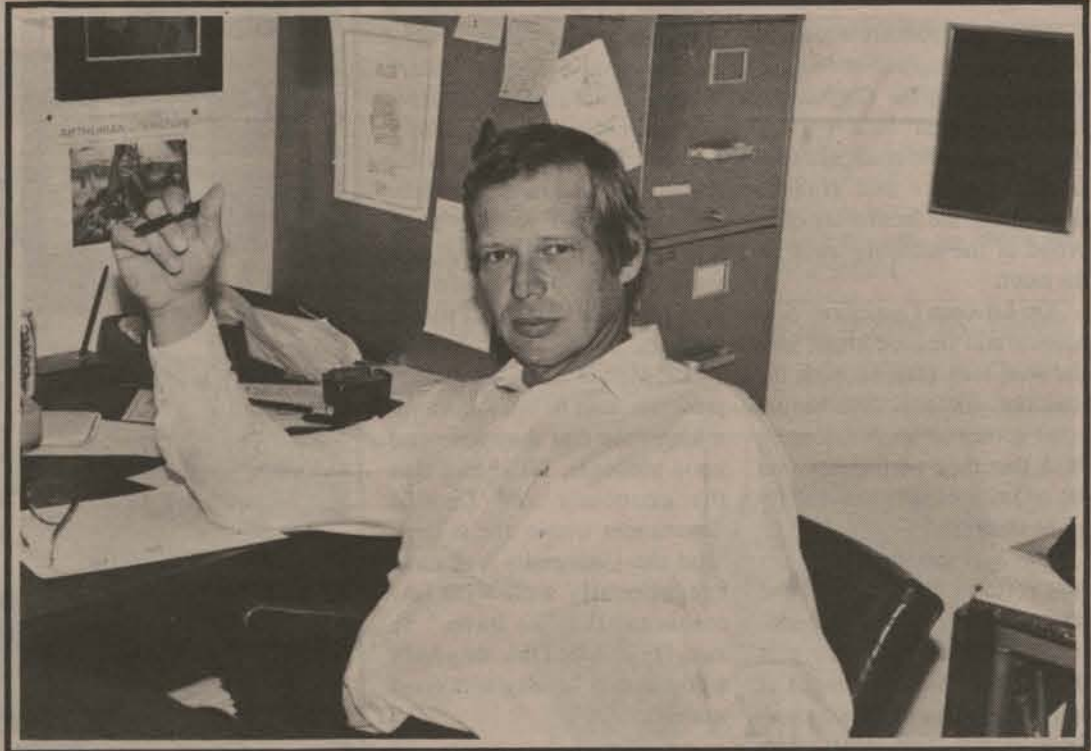
"I think that the amount of writing the students do contributes to their weaknesses or strengths," he said. "Students should naturally improve as they write more often."

Mary Zimmerman, English major, said her grades reflect her writing skills.

"I had no writing skills before I enrolled at LSUS," Zimmerman said, "and I don't always make the grades that I would like to make. However, I feel that my writing is graded fairly."

Zimmerman said students should focus on writing well, taking creative writing and higher-level courses. She said writing courses should be offered through the senior level.

"Today our society does not encourage students to develop good writing skills," she said, "because they have the TV, video cassette recorder and the telephone. Other disciplines should require more than 12 hours of English, such as grammar and technical writing in the



Dr. Merrell Knighten

photo by Larry Merrell

humanities."

Zimmerman said many majors don't go beyond the sophomore English level. As a result, she said, students don't develop sufficient writing skills.

Zimmerman said the English department has the highest level of excellence at LSUS.

"Many of the students at LSUS," she said, "are accepted and appreciated into the work force, business arena, graduate and masters programs because

of their standard of excellence in writing."

Jill Dillingham, business major, said every grade is a matter of the instructor's personal opinion.

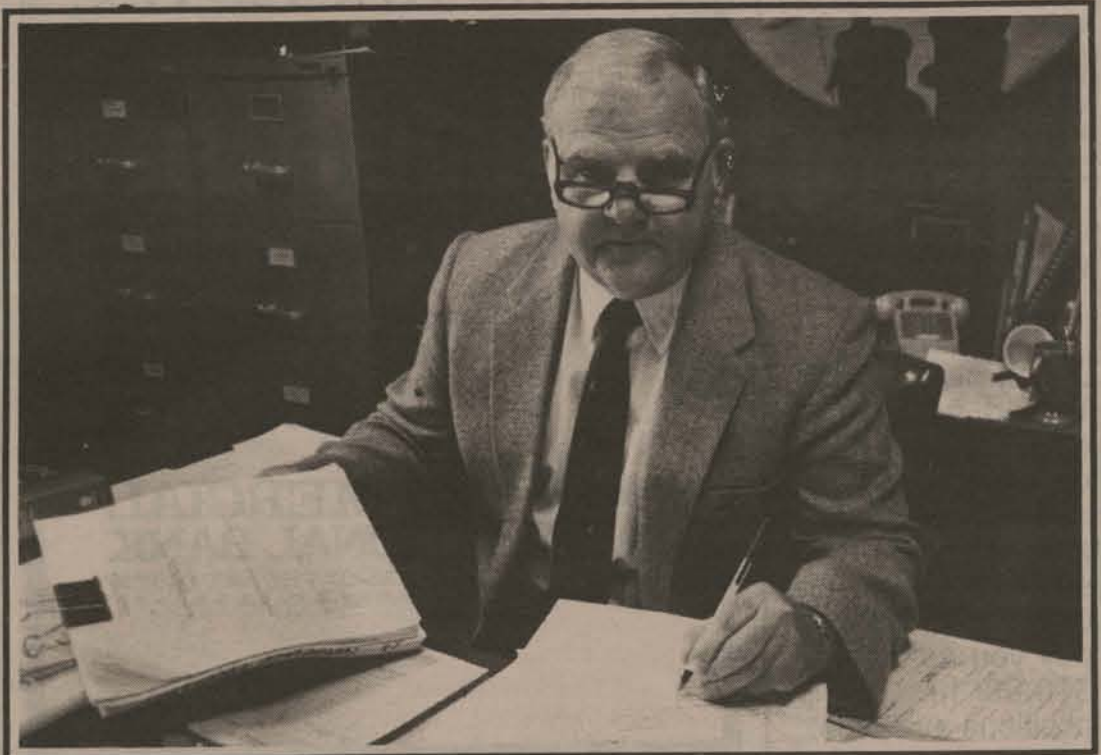
"For one, a lot of teachers do not pin-point what they want you to do," Dillingham said. "They put a piece of paper in front of you and say 'Write.' No one teaches grammar or style any more."

Dillingham said she thinks

she writes well, but she's not really concerned with writing.

"It's not a waste of time," she said, "but I'm a business major, and I don't think it is as necessary. I understand what I'm trying to say."

Dillingham also said LSUS English instructors are good, but she feels there should be more discussion of students' writing skills. She said brainstorming helps students get their points across to the instructors.



Dr. James Sabin

photo by Larry Merrell



## news

# Economic students top one third

By RANDY JAMES  
Staff Reporter

LSUS economic students scored in the top one-third of all students taking the Corporation Finance exam last spring. According to the chairperson of the economics and finance department, the faculty are quite proud of the students' rank on the exam.

Dr. Luvonia Casperson, economics and finance chair, said she was very pleased with the students' success. "We have a good group of students and I think that their performance on the exam indicates the quality of the students."

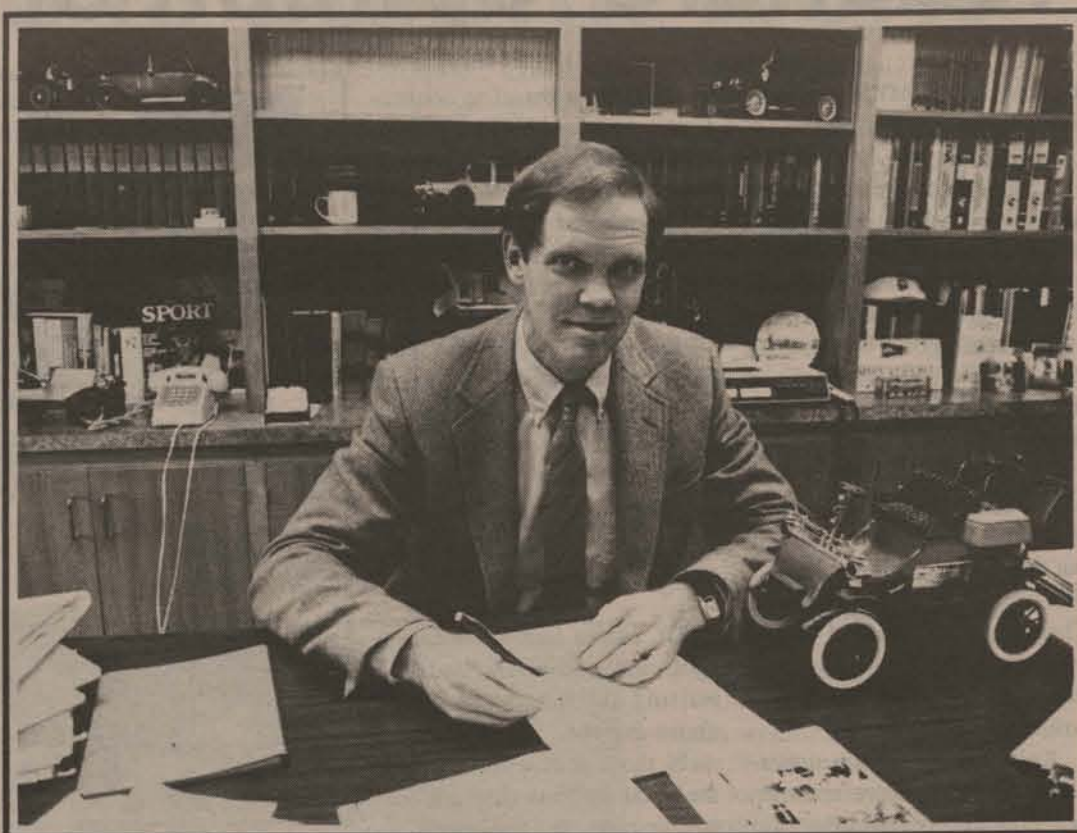
She said the students' success reflects favorably on the economics department, especially in finance because it shows that the department is doing a good job of instructing the students. Also, Casperson thinks the faculty is "No. 1." "You really can't have quality like this without good input from the faculty and the students," she said. "Both (faculty and students) deserve credit for this."

Dean Lawrence Clark, business dean, said that he was real

proud of the economic students' performance. "I think that the students get a solid education in the classroom as well as in other educational studies." Clark added that the economics department is quite fortunate because four instructors in the department who have been there for at least 10 years. "They (instructors) have brought a wealth of knowledge and experience into the classroom for the students."

Dr. Melvin Harju, economics professor, said he has known for a long time that they have had good students. "It shows that the economic and finance department within the college and the University has done exceptionally well with few resources that we have," he said. Harju added that they have a committed faculty and good students.

LSUS participated in the field testing of the New York's Regents College/ACT PEP Examinations. The 28 participating institutions included the University of Missouri,



Dr. Lawrence Clark

photo by Larry Merrell

Wisconsin, Hawaii and as Sam Houston State, Millsaps and Kansas State. Southwestern Louisiana, as well as Christopher Newport College,

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# Fair Park students take LSUS

By SANDY GRIGSON  
Staff Reporter

Students from Fair Park High School arrived last Friday for a day-long, get-acquainted tour of the facilities.

"The students are part of what we call our American Studies program. They are enrolled in American history and English courses," said Jean Ware, Fair Park assistant principal of instruction.

According to Dr. Mary McBride, liberal arts dean, the idea for the campus visit resulted from the participation by Fair Park students in the American Studies forum held on the University campus last year. Representatives from the University met afterward with Ware and four Fair Park teachers to determine what type of program students would be interested in.

Previously, LSUS sent representatives to area schools to promote the campus and curriculum. The new approach allows prospective students to get a first-hand look at the campus and to visit classrooms, writing labs, the library and UC.

"We tend to fear the unknown," McBride said. "We're trying to make the unknown known."

Students were counseled by deans of each college, representatives from the admissions and financial aid offices. They were also introduced to the internship and athletic programs.

"It was very successful," said Sura P. Rath, associate professor of English and assistant to the vice chancellor of academic affairs. "I think the deans registered a very coherent presentation of their schools. I think the students had a sense of meeting people face to face."

In an effort to attract students who traditionally go elsewhere, the school-college program will be expanded to include other area schools next year. The program has virtually no cost attached to it and is an excellent way to reach students, Rath said.

Last week Rath mailed letters explaining the program and inviting 34 nearby high schools to participate next year. Future plans may include extending the program to junior colleges in parts of Texas and Arkansas.

"It's a great opportunity to come to LSUS," said Dana Young, Fair Park junior.

Young and her friend Shannon Kelly both plan to enter LSUS following high school graduation. Both young women are currently enrolled in

the medical magnet program at Fair Park and will be majoring in biology and pre-med.

Academic excellence was touted as the primary reason that students should attend LSUS.

"Because you are good students, you will be bombarded with information during the summer from different colleges," said Zenobia Hikes, assistant director of admissions and student recruitment.

"We are serious in the classroom," Hikes said. In assessing colleges, Hikes stressed that students should examine the faculty-to-student ratio, the educational backgrounds of the faculty and type of information learned at the University.

Seventy-five percent of the teachers at LSUS have their Ph.D.s and the student-teacher ratio is about 18 to one. All that contributes to the quality and type of information learned

while at LSUS.

Rath and McBride agree that the school-college program is a useful tool in introducing high school students to college life. Groups in the future, limited to 25 students and a maximum of two schools per month will be organized through the office of academic affairs.

*We're trying to make the unknown known.*



(Left) Shannon Kelly; (Right) Dana Young photo by Larry Merrell

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## critic's corner

## Ricardo's, Don Carlos reviewed

By KAY WINNINGHAM  
Staff Reporter

Many people in the Shreveport-Bossier area enjoy good Mexican food and know where to find it. We have an assortment of Mexican restaurants to choose from — Nicky's, El Chico's, Superior Bar and Grill, Trejo's.

There is one wonderful Mexican restaurant which never receives much acclaim. Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant is located at 620 Marshall Street. It doesn't have a very appealing appearance from the outside. In fact it is somewhat

of a hole-in-the-wall. But if you can get past that fact, and go inside, you will find that the food is fresh and very tasty. Also the atmosphere is clean and friendly, and the service is fast and courteous.

The menu offers all the traditional items found in Mexican restaurants. Prices range from around \$3.50 to \$6.00. Recommended selections are the nachos deluxe, taco salad, burrito and combination plate. Unlike many other Mexican restaurants, Ricardo's ground beef is fresh and spiced to perfection. The hot sauce is some of the best I have ever tasted.

The downtown location is only open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Ricardo recently opened his restaurant at a new location, 3110 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop, which is open for dinner from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on week nights, and until 10 p.m. on weekends.

The new location offers a larger selection. The chicken fajitas are great. The combination platter with nachos, quesadillas and fried taquitos is good to split between people for an appetizer. The margaritas can't compare to Superior's, but they are pretty tasty.

On the other end of the scale

is a Mexican restaurant on Barksdale Boulevard in Bossier called Don Carlos. I heard people talking about how good the food is at this restaurant, so being a great fan of Mexican food, I decided to give it a try.

Much to my surprise, it turned out to be the worse Mexican food I have ever eaten. I ordered the bean and cheese nachos, thinking it was a safe choice, since it is pretty hard to destroy something so simple. But they tasted like the kind of nachos made at home with Doritos, Velveeta and canned refried beans. My friend ordered the chicken fajitas which were

marinated in a murky brown, tasteless sauce — said to be their "special" chicken marinade.

Needless to say, the entire dining experience was regretted. The service was slow, the surroundings were quite tacky, and the food was terrible. Although, the prices were decent.

If you like going out and spending money on Mexican food that looks and tastes like El Charito frozen dinners, Don Carlos is your kind of restaurant. But if you prefer fresh, spicy Mexican food which fills you up for under \$5.00, Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant is your best bet.

## New O'Connor album mellow

By KAY WINNINGHAM  
Staff Reporter

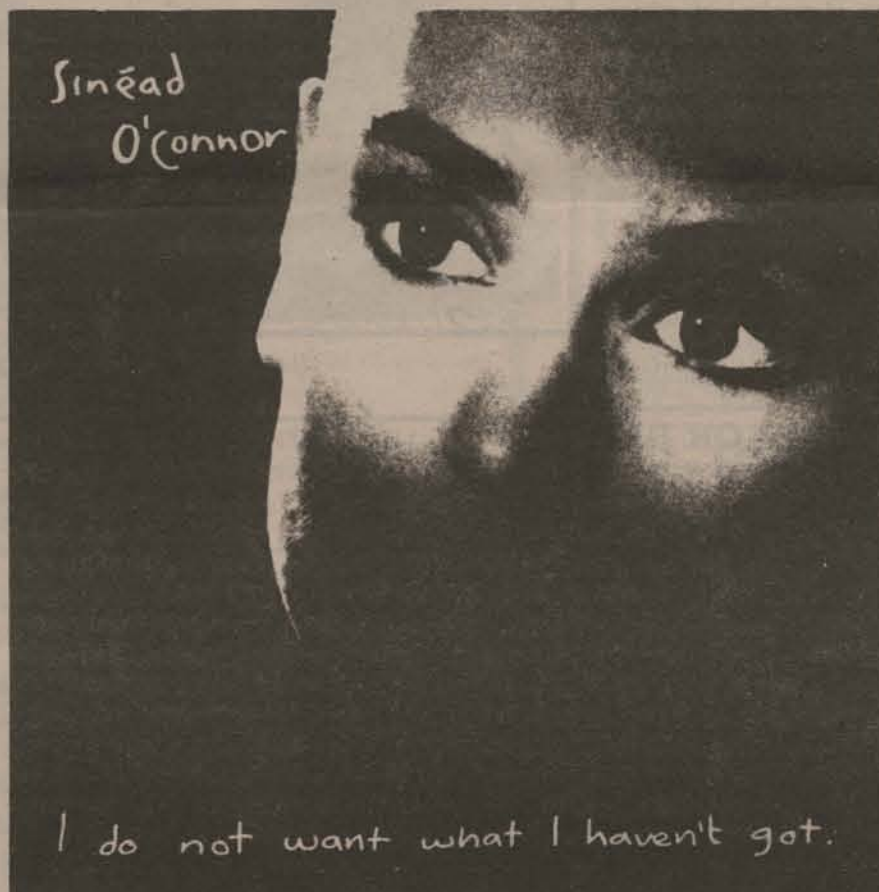
A small-framed, completely bald Irish girl who entered the music scene in 1985 wearing combat boots and not much else, surprised critics with her violent lyrics and extraordinary voice range.

Sinead O'Connor was only 20 when her first album, "The Lion and the Cobra" was released. It sold 500,000 copies. At 24, she now has an infant son and is married to her band's drummer, John Reynolds. Her head is beginning to show signs of stubble. She has also released a second LP entitled "I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got."

The new album has a more serious, emotional sound. O'Connor's voice is soothing and creates a somewhat mellow mood. Most of the songs are quite slow and simple, relying heavily on her exceptional voice. She started writing the first album when she was only 15, which may explain the difference in the brash sounds of "The Lion and the Cobra" and the placid tones of the new album.

The hit single and video "Nothing Compares 2U," written by Prince, is the number one single on the British charts. Although the song's lyrics deal with the age-old and ever-popular subject of lost love, this song is by far the best on the album. Her voice almost whispers at times and becomes entrancing.

Other songs deal with inner peace, death, emotional loss and political justice. In the song entitled "Black Boys on Mopeds" she sings — "Margaret Thatcher on T.V. / Shocked by the deaths that took place in Beijing / It seems strange that she should be offended / The same orders are given by her / England's not the mythical land of Madame George and roses / It's the home of police that kill black boys on mopeds." As she sings, only an acoustics guitar is heard in the background.



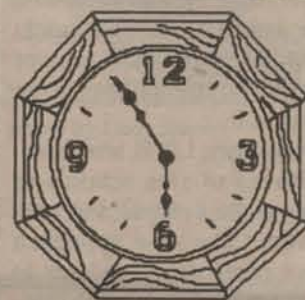
*If you want some music that might help you relax or even lull you to sleep, this album may do the trick.*

The only two songs with a somewhat faster beat are called "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "Jump in the River." These songs are only average. The rest of the tracks are somber in tone and couple O'Connor's melodic voice with the acoustic guitar. Many of the 10 tracks sound

similar to each other.

Don't buy this album if you are expecting to hear the same sound as Sinead O'Connor's first album. But if you want some music that might help you relax or even lull you to sleep, this album may do the trick.

Some people buy an album, tape or CD because there is one or two songs they like on it, and end up hating the rest of the songs — and becoming tired of the whole thing pretty quickly. I did that with the purchase of this album, that is, I bought it because I like only the few songs I had heard. But I found that it really seemed to grow on me after awhile.



*It's time  
to Spring  
Forward!  
Don't  
forget to  
set your  
clocks  
forward  
for  
Daylight  
Savings  
Time!*



## sports

# LSUS wins conference

By KEVIN FLOWERS  
Managing Editor

No, it may not have been an NCAA game, but for LSUS, the victory was just as sweet.

The campus men's extramural basketball team won the River Cities Six Championship, Monday, by defeating Southern University-Shreveport 74-58.

Led by Robert McGary's 21 points and another 17 from Steve Hurn, the team continued the success it enjoyed during the regular season in posting a 5-0 record.

Kurt Rensink, student activities director and coordinator for the team, said the team's strategy worked well throughout the game. "We knew we had to make our outside shots and control the boards to win, and that's what we were able to do."

Even so, Southern refused to give up easily, with three players scoring in double figures. Their team took an early 6-2 lead and at the half only trailed by two. The score was 25-23.

But as play resumed, LSUS' team found its groove and began pulling away, widening the gap by 10. The score was 41-31 with 13 minutes remaining in the second half.

From that point on, there was no looking back for LSUS. Team members out-rebounded Southern, who could only come within nine points in the final minutes of the game.

Shannon Wall, English junior and team member, said although the team played sluggish early on, they quickly picked up their pace. "We were a little slow at first, and Southern was making some

good plays, but we were too strong inside."

Both Wall and Rensink agreed that the team shot well from outside in the second half. "We were really hitting our three-pointers," Rensink said.

The team used this shooting ability in knocking LSU Medical Center out of the post season tournament by defeating them 77-68 in the semi-finals.

Although acknowledging that the team received occasional assistance from other LSUS players, Rensink gave credit for the win to players Scott Heno, Richie Graham, Terrence Code, Hurn, Wall, McGary, and McGary's brother Mark.

"These guys really carried the team through the season," he said. "If any one of them had been missing from the game Monday night, we may not have won."

# Soccer club travels to Texas for final match

By KEVIN FLOWERS  
Managing Editor

Once again, the LSUS Soccer Club has made traveling plans, as its members prepare for the last game of the season.

The club will be going to Longview, Texas on April 8 to play its final match at the Indoor Soccer Action Center.

Club Coach Abdei Adloo said the team has been working hard, and he feels confident of its chances.

Though the team has been unable to recapture the success it enjoyed last season in posting a 7-1 record, Adloo said he is still "pleased with the season."

The team carries a 2-3 record into its match with the Cobras.

"In our first couple of games, we were a little shaky because we weren't used to the indoor soccer surface," Adloo said, adding, "The boys really didn't have an indoor soccer background when the season started, but now they've gotten some experience."

He said he has tried to stress to the players the importance of working together. "I think they've improved a lot, but I continually tell them that soccer is not an individual sport."

Dr. Norm Dolch, professor of social science and faculty advisor to the club, said he, too,

is pleased with the season "in the sense that the players seem to be enjoying themselves." His only complaint is that there aren't more students participating. "We'd like to have at least five or six more people playing, both men and women." The team currently has 12 male members.

But Dolch is pleased that the club has managed to involve several people from the community in its activities. "There are a few spectators who are consistent in coming to every game," he said, adding, "For anyone interested in going to our last match, transportation will be provided, although they must get a ticket from a player."

When soccer becomes a varsity sport this fall, Dolch said the fans may have to get by without seeing the club for awhile. "We're still not sure what's going to happen next semester, but the club will not be playing at all during the intercollegiate season."

In an earlier interview with the ALMAGEST, Athletic Director Larry Rambin said even though soccer has been approved for Division III athletics, this fall "will be more a time of establishing a playing schedule and organizing a team."

As to the club's future status, Dolch said, "We'll just have to wait and see."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5 - Body Building
- April 5 - Frisbee Golf
- April 5 - 5K Run
- April 6 - Team Volleyball
- April 11 - Pool Tournament
- April 18 - Badminton Tournament
- April 20 - 2 on 2 Volleyball
- April 21 - Softball Tournament
- April 23 - Med School Tournament
- April 23 - Co-Rec Tournament
- April 27-29 - State Intramural Tournament

## BADMINTON RESULTS

Men's Doubles Champs  
Paul Rushing - Mike Sewell

Runner's Up  
Jim Cherry - Rick Lancaster

Women's Doubles Champs  
Jin S. Ok - Jung Kim

Runner's Up  
Terry Matt - Alicia Jeffie

Co-Rec Champs  
Mike Sewell  
Jin S. Ok

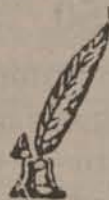
Runner's Up  
Paul Rushing  
Theresa Mathes



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National Baptist Church, Protestant Episcopal Church, and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



## the back page

## BRIEFS

State Rep. David Duke will speak at LSUS on Wednesday, April 4, as part of the Student Government Association's Senatorial Series.

Duke will speak in the University Center Theater at noon and again at 7:30 p.m. Both sessions are open to students, faculty, staff and general public at no charge.

"LSUS Live," the third annual LSUS Talent Show, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 6 in the LSUS University Center Theater.

Tickets for the program are \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door, and are available from members of the LSUS Public Relations Student Society of America.

Following the talent show, the Student Activities Board will sponsor a dance in the UC Ballroom.

The second Chat With the Chancellor, which was scheduled for April 4, has been postponed until April 17. Questions for the forum, which will be held in front of the University Center, are still being taken.

The LSUS College Republicans will hold a meeting Monday, April 2 at 7 p.m. in the University Center's Webster Room.

A new constitution will be voted on, and nominations for the April 16 election of club officers will be taken.

The Second Annual N. Louisiana Science Olympiad will be held Saturday, March 31 at LSUS.

Included in the olympiad's 27 events will be mousetrap vehicles, a balloon race, and bridge building.

Registration of teams will be held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the Science Building lobby on the day of the olympiad.

Events begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 1:30 p.m., except for a 30 minute break beginning at 11:15.

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## SQUIGGLY WORDSEARCH

by Carol Hall, Computer Science Department

Can you find these words in the array?

The key will be posted near the Computer Science Office (SC 119).

Squiggly is similar to the regular WordSearch puzzles you are accustomed to finding each week in the Almagest. The difference with Squiggly is that the words are positioned in different directions, not straight lines.

Each letter of the word may be positioned in any of the eight directions, as long as it doesn't write over another letter, cross the boundary of the puzzle or cross the boundaries of another word. This means that any letter of one word cannot be used by another word, so the more words you find, the easier it will be to find the remaining words.

ADVISOR  
CLASSES  
LABORATORIES  
MINOR  
ELECTIVES  
PERMIT  
SCHEDULE  
TEACHER  
OPTIONS  
SCIENCE  
ENGLISH  
REPEAT  
STUDENT  
SECTIONS  
HOURS  
HUMANITIES  
CREDIT  
AUDIT  
CONFLICT  
FEES  
MAJOR  
REQUIREMENTS  
MATH  
REGISTRAR

## PRE-REGISTRATION BLUES

X	K	U	U	C	M	N	A	N	R	Z	V	D	R	N	G	L	G	R	B
K	T	Z	K	W	I	Y	A	O	T	M	K	E	E	C	U	K	I	X	H
M	X	R	B	X	K	C	D	A	N	I	W	E	N	O	L	F	K	S	S
V	L	U	C	N	E	V	Q	S	P	S	X	Y	I	F	I	U	T	H	C
C	S	M	Q	A	I	F	R	V	U	E	E	J	W	R	A	C	P	C	Z
H	D	C	L	T	B	T	M	E	K	F	M	M	S	I	D	U	A	B	O
A	E	U	E	S	N	E	R	E	O	L	A	L	T	K	L	J	G	G	H
W	Y	D	I	E	M	R	I	U	Q	S	L	C	C	J	R	R	T	U	B
U	H	H	T	M	M	P	J	O	R	E	S	E	N	E	R	I	I	M	A
O	Q	W	A	M	M	A	N	L	S	G	B	Z	I	K	E	J	D	N	N
P	O	N	S	C	R	S	F	P	P	P	A	Q	C	M	S	D	E	V	F
T	O	Q	A	O	U	A	Z	V	J	C	E	T	S	S	E	F	S	R	S
I	F	D	O	S	I	K	G	Z	V	E	H	V	E	T	X	E	R	T	Q
E	P	D	Y	N	S	E	F	M	R	Y	I	E	Q	A	I	D	C	S	U
M	R	F	B	V	O	T	C	U	S	E	T	A	L	X	D	F	H	D	B
I	M	O	A	L	I	O	O	E	K	W	L	C	U	V	H	G	V	N	E
T	V	A	R	S	N	I	R	H	T	F	K	E	I	O	K	U	Q	T	A
C	T	R	I	E	G	S	T	A	H	O	L	R	S	R	R	M	R	E	P
H	Z	O	U	R	S	E	R	P	J	V	T	Z	B	F	U	D	M	Q	E
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